

## Americans oppose quick military action

NEW YORK (R) — Eight out of 10 Americans oppose swift U.S. military action against Iraq but more than half support attacking Iraqi positions if fighting breaks out, even if U.S. or foreign nationals are held at those sites, according to a poll. The Newsweek magazine poll, based on telephone interviews with 767 Americans conducted Aug. 23-24, found that 80 per cent of those questioned oppose quick military action following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and want President George Bush to wait and see if diplomatic and economic sanctions are effective. The poll, with a margin of error of four percentage points, found that more than half of the respondents believe Japan, the Soviet Union, and Arab and European nations are not doing enough to help solve the crisis. Although 75 per cent of those questioned support Bush's handling of the crisis, 64 per cent said he should pay more attention to a diplomatic solution. Eighty per cent think combat is likely, compared to 74 per cent in a Newsweek poll taken Aug. 9-10.

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## Thatcher rules out talks with Saddam

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Sunday ruled out negotiations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the Gulf crisis, saying there could be no talks with "a tyrant." She dismissed Saddam's latest suggestion that he was ready for talks on international tension sparked by Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait. "There is no negotiation with a person, who by force has taken someone else's country," she said after Sunday morning prayers near her country retreat at Chequers. Thatcher spoke a day after the U.N. Security Council agreed that Iraqi trade should be blocked by force and Iraq imposed a siege to move foreign diplomats out of Kuwait. Hours later, the Iraqi leader warned the United States that any Western attack would result in "columns of dead bodies without end." Thatcher appeared unmoved by Saddam's threat, declaring: "We are dealing with a dictator who is an absolute tyrant... this man is a despot and a tyrant and must be stopped." Thatcher said Saddam was most unlikely to heed current U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for withdrawal from Kuwait.

## Bangladesh thanks Jordan for help

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received a cable of thanks from Bangladeshi President Mohammad Hussain Ershad, who voiced his appreciation and gratitude to Jordan for the good care and nice treatment offered to Bangladeshis arriving in Jordan from Iraq en route to their country. Ershad paid tribute to the positive role played by His Majesty King Hussein to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, and stressed his country's support for the King's efforts.

## Saud in Rabat

RABAT (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Rabat Sunday for talks with King Hassan on the Gulf crisis. He told reporters he was carrying a message from King Fahd as part of consultations between the two monarchs following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported.

## Sheikh Saad said to meet U.S. envoy

NICOSIA (R) — The prime minister of Kuwait's toppled government discussed the Gulf crisis Sunday with the U.S. ambassador-designate to Kuwait, Edward Gnehm, the Kuwait news agency (KUNA) reported. KUNA said Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is at the Saudi Arabian summer resort town of Taif, discussed with Gnehm the latest developments in the Gulf, a reference to a growing deployment of U.S.-led forces in the region. But a U.S. State Department spokesman said he was unaware of any such encounter. The spokesman confirmed that Gnehm was due to replace Nathaniel Howell before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

## Iraq seeks Red Cross help

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's Red Crescent Society Sunday appealed to the Red Cross to help prevent shortages of food and medicine resulting from a U.N. trade embargo. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that in a message to the Red Cross, "The Iraqi society made it clear that the death of Iraqi or a foreign child due to the shortage of food and medicine constituted a major crime against humanity." The United Nations slapped an international embargo on trade with Baghdad after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. But that embargo does not include medicines or other "humanitarian aid." The Red Crescent appealed to the League of the Red Cross Societies "to play an effective role in preventing this crime from happening," INA said.

## Egyptian militants clash with police

CAIRO (AP) — Eight people were wounded in a weekend clash between police and fundamentalists in the northern governorate of Damietta, police sources said Sunday. Twenty seven fundamentalists were arrested. The police source said the incident took place Saturday night in a small village called Shat Greba in Damietta governorate, around 175 kilometres north of Cairo. He said police surrounded a mosque in the village where the fundamentalists usually met. The extremists refused to leave the mosque and a clash followed. Four fundamentalists and four policemen were injured in the clash. Police arrested 27 of the people in the mosque, and were looking for others who had fled the scene.

## Assad-Mubarak talks postponed

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has apparently postponed a visit to Egypt for talks with President Hosni Mubarak that were scheduled for Sunday. Egyptian officials notified reporters Saturday that Assad would arrive in Alexandria at 11 a.m. (0600 GMT), but Sunday gave no reason why the Syrian leader did not turn up. Alexandria airport officials said they had been told to cancel all arrangements for receiving the Syrian leader until further notice.

## King on Maghreb tour in bid to resolve Gulf crisis

Visit begins in Libya, will include 4 other Arab states and Europe ● Bashir holds talks with Regent en route to Iraq

### Combined Agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrived in Tripoli, Libya on a tour of five Arab countries and possibly several European states in a continued bid to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework against a background of a massive American-led military build-up in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and Washington's rejection of negotiations as long as Iraqi troops remained in Kuwait.

The King, on his first visit to Libya in over six years, was received upon his arrival at Tripoli by Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan news agency, JANA, reported. The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

King Hussein's tour will cover Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and

Mauritania. Diplomats said he would also visit London, Bonn and Madrid.

The talks were attended by Sharif Zeid, Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Mass'a'ab and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzedin.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Al Bashir said that the Arab Nation "is currently passing through a very critical stage and a very dangerous turning point, warranting every possible effort to contain the crisis by finding an inter-Arab solution to avoid a destructive war in the region, given the volume of weaponry and build up of forces in the region."

Bashir stressed the need for finding a comprehensive pan-Arab solution to the problem.

Asked whether there was any Arab initiative for solving the Gulf crisis, Bashir said: "So far, I can't say that an Arab initiative has crystallised. However, con-

tacts and consultations are under way, and the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein could lead to positive results."

Bashir voiced hope that such an Arab initiative will be crystallised following the King's present tour.

Before leaving, the King met Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozor who told him Ankara was keen to solve the Gulf crisis through dialogue.

"Only dialogue with all the parties is capable of achieving a solution to the crisis and sparing the region and the world the dangerous repercussions that could result from any explosion," Petra quoted Bozor as saying.

The Crown Prince also met with Bozor.

The foreign ministry of Algeria and the head of the Palestine

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## PLO unsure of role in Gulf crisis

Palestinian 'initiative' is no more than ideas at this stage and lack of contact with U.S. hampers 'mediation' efforts

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has not discussed with the Iraqi leaders a reported peace initiative involving an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but the organisation is keen to link any solution of the Gulf crisis to an overall settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to senior PLO officials.

They said that senior PLO officials who visited Baghdad over the past several days had not brought up a specific Palestinian peace initiative although ideas concerning the organisation's role and means to avert direct military intervention were discussed with the Iraqi leadership.

Reports from Tunis said Saturday that the PLO was launching a three-stage peace initiative involving the freezing of all military activities, including the dispatching and pos-

itioning of troops in the Gulf, a simultaneous Iraqi and American withdrawal from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia respectively, and a settlement for the Kuwait crisis by a special Arab League committee.

Palestinian sources said that even though Iraqi officials indicated that the annexation of Kuwait is irreversible, President Saddam Hussein is ready to show flexibility on any issue if it was relevant to prevent an American control of the region.

"But it is not a decision that the PLO or any party can decide. Iraq is the party directly threatened," a PLO official said. "It is not for the PLO to pressure Baghdad. After all Iraq has to maintain the freedom and margin to maneuver," he argued.

According to this view, Palestinian and the Arab national interests would be undermined if Iraq were to suffer a defeat, and the PLO therefore should take an active part in creating a popular steadfast front to counter the American presence.

or not. The arguments for a mediating role stem, according to information available, from a combination of maintaining bridges with Washington, pressures applied by a number of Palestinian expatriates in the Gulf, and fear that the PLO would lose its political role in inter-Arab politics.

Bot on the other hand, some Palestinian officials argue that the PLO simply cannot play the role of a mediator because it is unacceptable to the U.S. "Our bridges with Washington are already burned. We should not fool ourselves," one senior PLO official said.

In an interview with ABC television network, Prince Hassan said that His Majesty King Hussein was on continuous contact with the Arab Maghreb countries as well as Sudan and Yemen. The Regent said it was premature to talk in detail about Jordan's efforts since silent diplomacy rather than loud diplomacy was needed.

Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait

should be stressed but this is an extremely complicated issue, which entails intensive Arab efforts, Prince Hassan said.

In a reference to the call by the United Nations secretary general to find a compromise, Prince Hassan said such a solution should include guarantees of non-aggression by troops deployed in the region. The

(Continued on page 4)

## Egypt had tipped off Kuwaiti regime of assault'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egyptian authorities had tipped off the ruling Al Sabah family at least two hours before the first Iraqi soldiers crossed the border early Aug. 2, and this enabled almost all emir family members and cabinet ministers to escape by road and air to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, according to sources who were at the Kuwaiti Daman Palace at the time.

"The palace was informed at 00:15 midnight that an Iraqi invasion was coming and that the invasion force was too massive for anyone to resist or counter at short notice," a source told the Jordan Times. "The information was immediately counter-checked with Kuwaiti intelligence which seemed to be totally surprised," said the source who worked for the emir family but insisted on anonymity.

"The chief of Kuwaiti intelligence could not confirm or dismiss the tip-off but it appeared to have been decided that no chances were to be taken," according to the source.

"There was pandemonium in the palace, with everyone running around, but several senior members of the royal family appeared to have been ready for such an eventuality, and they were the ones to restore some calm and order," the source said. "Many rushed out in their bedchambers, while others stuffed bags and suitcases with whatever they could find."

"A convoy of limousines was lined up, and the first few cars took off with women of the Al Sabah family, but not all of them," the source said. "Some of them were left behind."

Resolution 665 was adopted by 13 votes to none with two abstentions after a week of diplomatic contacts to overcome Soviet reluctance.

Before the vote, President Mikhail Gorbachev had sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein warning of additional U.N. action if Baghdad failed to withdraw its troops and allow foreign nationals to leave the region freely.

The Soviet Union has two warships just south of the Strait of Hormuz but says they are so positioned in case they are used to assist 9,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq.

Moscow has evacuated all its nationals from Kuwait and plans to bring back to Moscow Sunday the first group of women and children currently in Iraq.

Shevardnadze also said that Moscow had no plans to take part in any U.N.-sponsored multinational force in the region, saying no decision had yet been taken to form one.

"If the Security Council takes a decision and the Soviet Union votes for it, we will carry out our responsibility," he said. "But so far such a decision has not been taken on forming and using such a force."

They also said they welcomed United Nations Resolution 665, approved Saturday by the Security Council, which called on all countries deploying maritime forces in the Gulf region to use "such measures commensurate with the specific circumstances as may be necessary" to end commerce with Iraq, which took over Kuwait Aug. 2.

However, the border is still heavily fortified on both sides, and foreigners will likely be allowed to cross only at certain points.

About 50,000 Iranians living in Kuwait have returned home through the Iran-Iraq border, and hundreds more continue to stream in every day, the radio has said.

Another 40,000 Iranians remained in Kuwait and could leave if they wanted, the official added.

He said Iraqi forces set Aug. 29 as the deadline for departure of Iranians from Kuwait.

## U.N. chief, Aziz to meet here Thursday

### Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet Thursday in Amman with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Al Aziz to discuss the Gulf crisis, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

The secretary general will meet with Aziz "in order to engage in a full exchange of views on the crisis," said Nadia Younes, the secretary general's spokeswoman.

The development offered the biggest chance yet to solve the Gulf crisis by negotiations, although the United States repeatedly has said no talks are possible until Iraq withdraws its troops from Kuwait.

Perez de Cuellar Saturday had invited Aziz to come to New York or Geneva to discuss the crisis. Later Saturday Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told reporters travelling with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim that he would welcome a visit by the U.N. chief in Iraq.

Younes said she could not say whether any other leaders would attend the meeting in Amman.

"We're not ruling anything out," she said.

U.N. secretary-general is always welcome."

In Kennebunkport, Maine, White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said Saturday he had not heard about the proposal but that the United States welcome a "discussion by all U.N. members in the context of the complete and immediate and unconditional withdrawal" of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Saddam has refused to withdraw from Kuwait.

Waldheim urged the West Sunday to open a dialogue with Iraq on the Gulf crisis, which he called the most serious facing the world since the 1948 Berlin blockade.

Waldheim, speaking on his return from the first contact with a Western leader since Aug. 2, said the Iraqi president had repeatedly told him he was ready for talks on the Gulf crisis.

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## Gulf solution depends on pace of efforts, contribution of all — Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday that chances of reaching a political solution to the region's conflict depends on the pace of peace moves and on giving all parties concerned the opportunity to contribute to a dialogue conducive to defusing the Gulf tension.

In an interview with ABC television network, Prince Hassan said that His Majesty King Hussein was on continuous contact with the Arab Maghreb countries as well as Sudan and Yemen. The Regent said it was premature to talk in detail about Jordan's efforts since silent diplomacy rather than loud diplomacy was needed.

Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait should be stressed but this is an extremely complicated issue, which entails intensive Arab efforts, Prince Hassan said.

In a reference to the call by the United Nations secretary general to find a compromise, Prince Hassan said such a solution should include guarantees of no-aggression by troops deployed in the region. The

(Continued on page 4)

## Iran opens border for evacuees

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Sunday that foreigners leaving Iraq or Kuwait can do so through Iran, Tehran Radio reported.

"We hope to obtain the approval of the necessary quorum to have this meeting take place in Cairo next Thursday. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told a news conference.

The radio quoted him as saying that for humanitarian reasons "Iran agrees to foreign evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait transiting in its territory."

Velayati agreed to let foreigners leave through Iran in response to a request by visiting Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus, asking that thousands of his countrymen trapped in Iraq and Kuwait be allowed to cross into Iran.

Velayati did not specify if Teheran's offer included only Asians, or whether thousands of Westerners held in Iraq will be cross.

No Westerners allowed to leave Iraq and Kuwait have been doing so through Iraq's border with Jordan and Turkey.

Tensions between Iran and Iraq have lessened since Baghdad settled a border dispute with Tehran last month, pulled out troops from occupied Iranian territory and initiated an exchange of prisoners of war.

However, the border is still heavily fortified on both sides, and foreigners will likely be allowed to cross only at certain points.

About 50,000 Iranians living in Kuwait have returned home through the Iran-Iraq border, and hundreds more continue to stream in every day, the radio has said.

Another 40,000 Iranians remained in Kuwait and could leave if they wanted, the official added.

He said Iraqi forces set Aug. 29 as the deadline for departure of Iranians from Kuwait.

## Cairo says 10 Arab states agree to meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said Sunday that 10 Arab foreign ministers have agreed to attend an emergency meeting on the Gulf crisis in Cairo Thursday and it expected more would take part.

"We hope to obtain the approval of the necessary quorum to have this meeting take place in Cairo next Thursday. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told a news conference.

The foreign ministers meeting would investigate each country's position on implementation of the resolution, Abdul Meguid said.

"Our position is to have a political solution that has to be within the framework of the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and a return of the legitimacy of Kuwait," he said.

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## U.S. forces pouring into Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — More U.S. forces are pouring into Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational build up and Western warships have been authorised to use necessary force to tighten the U.N. trade stranglehold on Iraq.

The U.S. Central Command prepared to move its headquarters from Macmillan air force base in Florida to Saudi Arabia.

Washington said Saturday it was sending an unspecified number of F-111 strike bombers from Britain to the kingdom to bolster its "Desert Shield" operation begun after Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

U.S. defence officials said about 60,000 troops and airmen, mostly marines, were on their way to Saudi Arabia to join 40,000 already there. The total could reach 150,000 by the end of October — the biggest U.S. military build-up since the Vietnam war.

Two Italian frigates and a supply ship sailed through the Suez Canal Saturday on their way to the Gulf.

Bangladesh's parliament authorised the departure of 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia to join the multinational force there.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Eilemann-Jensen said Copenhagen should send warships to the Gulf to oppose Baghdad.

Iraq denied an Egyptian report that it had sent jet fighters to Yemen and Sudan.

The Western and Arab ground forces in Saudi Arabia are facing 170,000 Iraqis in Kuwait and hundreds of thousands more in Iraq itself.

The West has about 650 combat planes in the area compared to Iraq's 500. It also has more than 60 warships ready to intercept shipping after the U.N. Security Council Saturday authorised the use of force to impose trade sanctions against Iraq.

Latest estimates of the balance of forces in the Gulf:

Iraq: About 170,000 troops entrenched in defensive positions in Kuwait with 500 tanks. Total armed forces a million strong with 5,500 tanks, nearly all free to confront the multinational force after Baghdad agreed to make peace with Iran. An Iraqi newspaper said five million Iraqis have joined a "people's army." Navy of five frigates, eight missile craft.

Saudi Arabia: Army of 38,000, paramilitary National Guard of 55,000, a 7,200-strong navy and an air force of 16,500. Weapons include 550 main battle tanks, 180 combat aircraft and eight frigates. Some 36 Kuwaiti planes are said to have escaped during the inva-

sion and are now in Saudi Arabia. An Arab force sent to Saudi Arabia after an Arab summit includes 5,000 men from Egypt, 1,000 from Morocco and 1,200 from Syria, according to military sources.

The United Arab Emirates, which has agreed to host foreign troops, has a 40,000-strong army with over 200 tanks, an air force of 1,500 men with 80 combat planes and a 1,500-man navy with 15 small warships.

The United States: Over 100,000 men and women committed to the Gulf. Nearly 35,000 sailors or naval airmen aboard 45 warships either in or heading for the region.

The American task force comprises four aircraft carrier groups with some 300 planes plus the battleship Wisconsin. Another 180 combat planes are in Saudi Arabia, including 20 radar-evading stealth fighters.

France has 3,500 men on four warships in the Gulf and the aircraft carrier Clemenceau on route. It plans to send reconnaissance units to the UAE and military instructors to Saudi Arabia.

Combat planes, warships and troops from Djibouti and the Indian Ocean bring its total strength in the crisis zone to 8,500 men.

Britain has four warships in the Gulf and three minesweepers heading there. It is to send 12 Tornado fighter-bombers to Bahrain to supplement 12 already in Saudi Arabia and 12 tank-busting Jaguar jets in Oman.

Italy has two frigates heading for the Gulf, the Netherlands two frigates, and Spain a frigate and two Corvettes. Belgium and Greece have promised to send warships.

West Germany has sent three minehunters, two minesweepers and a tender to the East Mediterranean to replace U.S. ships diverted to the Gulf. It will provide U.S. forces with 10 Fuchs vehicles designed to test the air for chemical warfare agents.

Australia has two warships on route to the Gulf. The Soviet Union has two warships already there.

Bangladesh is sending 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan says it will also send a force.

Turkey has reinforced the second army group defending its southern border by 10,000 men, bringing total strength in the area to 70,000. U.S. strike bombers and F-16s are based in Turkey within striking distance of Iraq.

Ankara says it would consider sending troops to the Gulf if Saudi Arabia asked it.

## Iraq says all recorded

## PoWs returned to Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq Sunday completed handing over all registered Iranian Prisoners of War (PoWs), the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Iraq and Iran were estimated to hold a total of 100,000 PoWs before the prisoner exchange began Aug. 17.

About 70,000 of these had been registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the two countries, about 50,000 in Iran and about 20,000 in Iraq.

Iraqi authorities Sunday invited the Red Cross to begin registering the remaining PoWs so that they, too, might be repatriated.

The Red Cross has coordinated the prisoner exchange. Iranian air force planes flying daily between Tehran and Baghdad have speeded up the swap.

The two countries earlier this month settled a decade-long border dispute. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein pulled troops out of

## Iraq steps up pressure on Kuwait embassies

NICOSIA (AP) — Defiant diplomats in Kuwait held out for a second day Sunday in several embassies ringed by Iraqi troops who have cut off their power, water and telephones to force them out.

But there were no reports that the Iraqis, who had ordered all embassies closed by Friday, were allowed Sunday to continue their overland journey to leave Iraq.

Italy said Sunday it wants the European Community (EC) to seek a U.N. Security Council meeting on Iraqi "violation of diplomatic immunity" of EC missions in Kuwait.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Italy, current EC president, had called for a meeting in New York of EC envoys to the U.N. to begin the procedures for a rapid calling of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The statement denounced "repeated and intolerable violations" of diplomatic missions in Kuwait, particularly an attempt by Iraqi soldiers to break down a wall at the French embassy to cut off its water supply.

Defying Iraq's order, South Korea will keep its embassy in Kuwait open with the "minimum strength in the crisis zone to 8,500 men."

He did not elaborate. But some other governments said diplomats at their embassies were free to come and go.

A number of diplomatic dependents, including 55 Americans, who had been held up in Baghdad after leaving Kuwait Saturday, were allowed Sunday to continue their overland journey to leave Iraq.

"We are watching the situation closely," a ministry official said. So far, there have been no reports of any Iraqi action against the Korean embassy, where Ambassador Soh Byung-Yong is staying, he said.

Other officials said Soh has been ordered to act in keeping with Western ambassadors.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, quoted a ministry official as saying the government does not know whether Iraq has taken steps to shut the embassy "owing to communications difficulties."

More than 40 Koreans were known to have left Kuwait since Wednesday and South Korea is consulting with Jordan and Turkey for their safe evacuation.

Iraqi troops rounded up eight more Britons from their homes in Kuwait City, the Foreign Office said Sunday.

## Moscow: No Iraq secrets given to U.S.

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet military leaders have denied giving the Americans secrets of Iraq's Moscow-supplied missile systems, a newspaper said Sunday.

It acknowledged that a military attaché conferred with the U.S. Defence Department during the American arms buildup in the Gulf crisis.

The Washington attaché, General G. Yakovlev, visited the Pentagon at the request of the Americans on Aug. 19, the daily Izvestia said, quoting Soviet Defence Ministry officials.

Yakovlev set out Soviet views on the Gulf and named the kinds of weapons that Moscow had supplied Iraq, long its strongest ally in the Middle East, Izvestia said. However, it said, this information had already been pub-

lished.

"In accordance with treaty commitments to Iraq and established practice in this sphere of international relations, there was no talk of the quantity and tactical and technical characteristics (of the weapons)," the paper said.

"In the course of the talks, it was also emphasised that the USSR had never supplied any kind of chemical weapons to Iraq," Izvestia said.

It said the information given by Yakovlev, as well as the fact that he did not describe any characteristics of Soviet military hardware in Iraq, were accepted "with understanding" by the American side.

Recent British newspaper re-

ports which said the Soviet attaché gave the Americans the details of Iraqi missile systems "do not correspond to reality, to put it mildly," Izvestia said.

It added that Western reports that Soviet warships would be subject to American command in the Gulf area were "from the field of fantasy."

For decades Iraq was Moscow's closest ally in the Middle East and received billions of dollars worth of tanks, missiles, arms, explosives and ammunition from the Kremlin.

Moscow cut off the arms deliveries shortly after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and has joined international condemnation of the action. But it has kept diplomatic contacts with Iraq.

## Gulf crisis exposes rifts between superpowers

By Lyndsay Griffiths  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — As the Gulf crisis enters its fourth week, analysts are detecting rifts between Washington and Moscow, despite their joint condemnation of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

"There are divisions," said Michael Sodaro of George Washington University. "But not that could lead to a rupture in relations. Moscow isn't in opposition (to Washington)."

President George Bush has repeatedly praised Moscow for supporting the U.S. position in the Gulf crisis.

But since Moscow and Washington condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait in a show of cooperation not seen since World War II, the unity seems to have waned.

Moscow appears to have followed an Iraqi order to shut its embassy in Kuwait, announcing Friday it had removed all its staff. Washington has defied Baghdad's order.

On Thursday, the United States said the presence of Soviet military advisers in Iraq could violate U.S. economic sanctions. Moscow said it could not renege on the contracts.

And at the United Nations in New York, there are suggestions the Soviet Union is dragging

its feet, reluctant to adopt tougher resolutions against a long-time ally.

The Soviets basically are with the West in this crisis but still may wish to be seen in the Arab World as an independent interlocutor. After all, the Soviets don't want to seem on an American leash," said Sodaro.

He said there could be debate inside the Kremlin about how to react to the crisis, noting, "The Soviets are still in a transition period in their foreign policy."

"Just think, (in the past) we would have been on opposite sides," he said. "With careful nudging they can be urged to cooperate even further."

Both nations have condemned Baghdad's invasion and supported each other's demand their citizens in Iraq and Kuwait be free to leave. And Moscow has agreed to stop its lucrative arms shipments to Iraq.

"But they could also pull their military advisers, terminate some of these contracts. And quite possibly there could be some move at the U.N.," said Sodaro. "Give it time."

Shireen Hunter of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies said the Soviets were "betting their bets on both sides: Joining the United States in condemning the invasion but also trying to keep lines to the Arabs

open."

Moscow denied that by leaving its embassy in Kuwait empty, it had breached its solidarity with Western nations and sided with Iraq. But diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet move was a blow to unity against Baghdad.

"Of course, we would like it to be otherwise, but it was to be expected and frankly we cannot tell the Soviets what to do," said Middle East diplomat.

In New York, diplomats said Thursday the Soviet Union had queried the timing of a resolution that would permit force to uphold a U.N. embargo against Iraq due to doubts the sanctions had been violated.

But the United States said Friday military material and other goods were slipping through the embargo and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said if Iraq did not abide by U.N. resolutions, tougher ones may follow.

Despite this warning to Iraq, Hunter said it would be naive to think the Soviets would completely drop old allies and kowtow to Western wishes.

"The Soviets are foot dragging," said Hunter. "And it's frustrating (for U.S. officials).

But the important thing is we don't have this East-West confrontation. The U.S. realises this

and sees the Soviet cup as half full, not half empty."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## American intervention holds long-term perils

By Ed Blanche  
Associated Press

NICOSIA — The United States may have saved Saudi Arabia's rulers from being toppled by Iraq, but in the long run the military intervention in the Gulf is fraught with peril for America and its Arab friends.

Unless the United States

takes into account all the long-term implications of the situation, its actions may produce a recipe for permanent upheaval rather than the regional stabilisation which is its aim," Middle East analyst Charles Snow stressed.

Iraq's Aug. 2 take-over of Kuwait has shaken the Arab World, polarising it and triggering new, and often surprising alliances.

"In the immediate future ... the region will be very lucky indeed if there's not an explosion of potentially epic proportions," Snow said.

"Even if this can be avoided, the future looks bleak," said Snow, a veteran analyst with the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey.

Saddam's interment of U.S. and British hostages in Baghdad and Kuwait, and U.S. President George Bush's decision to beef up the U.S. military commitment, including calling up military reserves for the first time in 20 years, has raised the temperature in recent days.

Apart from the prospect of war and the danger Iraq will use chemical weapons, there is the threat of a new wave of attacks on U.S. and Western targets in the Mideast and beyond.

U.S. intervention in Lebanon in 1983 as part of a multinational peacekeeping force ended in disaster. Nearly 300 U.S. and French servicemen were killed in suicide bombings.

The Middle East was restive and uncertain even before Aug. 2.

The Palestinian uprising, the end of superpower rivalry that cast the region adrift, and the flood of Soviet Jews to Israel combined to radically alter the Mideast equation.

By linking a withdrawal from Kuwait with Israel's occupation of Arab land, Iraq has widened its appeal to Arab masses and the Muslim world.

Arab moderates have reluctantly gone along with U.S. intervention in Saudi Arabia.

But they're uneasy about the American presence in such a sensitive and strategic region.

The less time the Iraqis are given to whip up anti-American sentiment in the Arab World, the better as far as Washington is concerned," Snow noted.

Shahram Chubin, a Middle East specialist with Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies, noted: "The U.S. presence such force in the land of Islam's holiest places is likely to create a lot of discontent in the Muslim world.

The semi-permanent presence of the naval armada in the Gulf could well eventually antagonise Iraq, even though it has opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," he said in a telephone interview.

"The longer the Americans stay in the Gulf, the worse it will look for them," he said. "The change in the Arab order caused by Iraq's actions will not necessarily be in America's favour. The U.S. intervention may have saved the Saudi royal family for now, but it could ultimately undermine them."

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### British couple marry in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The British couple trapped in Iraq wanted a simple wedding just wearing jeans. But Iraqi authorities insisted the Gulf crisis should not prevent the betrothed from having a toast of champagne and the traditional kiss. The ceremony Thursday was even broadcast on Baghdad Television Friday. "We have decided to get married while here... we are happy anyway," Deborah, the bride, shouted over Western music blaring from loudspeakers as Iraqis and Britons joined the couple in the dance. The broadcast showed Robert in a dark suit kissing Deborah in a white gown to the tunes of an Iraqi musical band and a children's choir. A throng of Iraqi guests and fellow British hostages wished the couple a happy life thereafter.

### Australians protest deployment in Gulf

MELBOURNE (AP) — A group opposed to Australian naval involvement in the Gulf crisis staged a demonstration Saturday and vowed it was just the start of protests around the country. The Gulf Action Committee, a newly formed coalition of anti-American activists, peace advocates and Arab groups, met in the city square before marching to protest outside the U.S. consulate. State legislator Jean McLean said that pressure needed to be maintained on the federal government over Australia's role in the Middle East. "Our prime minister rushed to what amounts to an American colonial adventure to satisfy his political vanity," McLean told the gathering of several hundred people. Police said the demonstration broke up after reaching the U.S. consulate. No arrests were made.

### Australian minister, Mubarak discuss Gulf

CAIRO (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans held talks on the Gulf crisis with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria Sunday, the Middle East News Agency reported. Mubarak told Evans of the need to avoid war in the Gulf,

## Flow across Ruweished regains momentum, but under control

By P.V. Vivekamand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The flow of foreigners leaving Iraq and Kuwait regained momentum Sunday with border officials reporting over 13,000 people arriving at the Ruweished border post by late evening, most of them Egyptians who are being airlifted under an international operation.

According to Interior Ministry officials, over 225,000 have crossed the border into Jordanian territory from Iraq since Aug. 11, when Baghdad opened the frontier for foreigners to leave the country amid rising fears of a military confrontation sparked by its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Jordan's effort to offer basic services to the thousands of evacuees at the border as well as at various camps around the Kingdom was substantially backed by various governments and international organisations.

The European Community, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Migration Organisation, and the European Relief Organisation "medicins sans frontieres" are extending assistance in cash and in kind to the evacuation operation. In

addition, several non-EC European countries, including Sweden, have contributed to the process.

The EC has pledged a total of \$4.3 million to aid the evacuation, including \$850,000 from Italy, the current EC president. Part of the aid is in the form of relief supplies and equipment and the other was being spent on the airlift operation, an Italian diplomat told the Jordan Times. The British government was providing \$500,000.

Saudi Arabia, which sent at least six of its Tristar planes for airlifting Egyptians from Aqaba to Cairo, also sent 200 buses to take Egyptians from Al Ruweished to Aqaba, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

The West German government, which sent a goods and relief consignment worth \$127,000 earlier this week, was dispatching a 167-seat aircraft to fly Egyptians home in as much as 27 flights. One Belgian C-130 Hercules aircraft landed in Aqaba late Saturday and joined the airlift Sunday and another Belgian plane was scheduled to arrive Monday.

The Egyptian government meanwhile announced that a total of 85,000 Egyptians had returned home from Iraq and Kuwait since Aug. 2 and another 300,000 were expected soon. Almost 90 per cent of those already arrived are believed to have used the overland route across Jordan.

The situation was also easing

at the Aqaba port, with less than 6,000 Egyptians waiting for the ferry across the Red Sea to Nuweiba in the Sinai.

Asian diplomats and embassy staff, who have adopted a daily routine of driving down to Al Ruweished to arrange transportation for their nationals to Amman from the border, reported, as one of them put it, "a marked improvement" from early last week.

"People are no longer swarming around, making everyone's work difficult," the diplomat commented.

Tents were springing up in the area to house the evacuees awaiting transport to Amman, and several medical centres were offering services to the sick, witnesses reported from the scene. No major health problems were reported.

Diplomatic sources were sceptical of a report that Syria had opened its border with Iraq to take in Egyptians to be ferried home down the Mediterranean to Suez. An Asian diplomat said his embassy in Damascus had informed him that the Iraqi-Syrian border was not open, and the only crossing through the post was made by eight westerners who had actually fled from Bagdad.

Amin said that there was a large number of people from his state also living in Kuwait. "We are here to see for ourselves the process, and seek to help whatever our embassy is doing," he told the Jordan Times.

Of the 170,000 Indians who used to live in Kuwait before the Iraqi takeover, 80,000 were believed to be from Kerala state. According to embassy figures, the bulk of the Indians being evacuated through Jordan is from Kerala.

Amin said that there was a large number of people from his state also living in Kuwait. "We are here to see for ourselves the process, and seek to help whatever our embassy is doing," he told the Jordan Times.

Two Indian state ministers, one from the southern state of Kerala and the other from the

Western state of Gujarat, Sunday visited the Al Ruweished post on what one of them described as a mission to gain firsthand information on the evacuation process and the difficulties encountered.

T.K. Hamzah, public works minister of Keralas, and Narai Amin, home minister of Gujarat, arrived here late Saturday from Saudi Arabia where they visited camps set up for Indians leaving Kuwait.

According to Hamzah, the objective of the visit is "to gain first-hand information of the plight of our nationals living in Kuwait, and how the process of their evacuation is con-

tinuing." There is a great deal of anxiety in Kerala, where almost every house has one expatriate in the Gulf over what is happening in Kuwait, and I hope to have a fair and clear picture to present before them when I go back," Hamzah told the Jordan Times.

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AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Queen Alia Jordanian Social Welfare Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), will hold a day-long symposium on role of voluntary organisations in promoting the causes of women and children.

The symposium will be held at the Philadelphia International Hotel on 28 August, 1990, starting 9:30 a.m.

Speaking at the symposium, which comes as part of the national preparations for the World Summit for Children, due to convene in New York on 29-30 September 1990, will be a number of Jordanian experts and specialists.

Participants will discuss five working papers on the basic needs of children, women's contribution to development, and the role of the voluntary sector in promoting health, child welfare and ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the World Declaration on Child Rights.

## Symposium on voluntary organisations' role to be held

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## U.N. organisations grant cash, food aid to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations organisations operating in Jordan Sunday announced a \$753,000 worth of food supplies and \$100,000 in cash as a grant to Jordan to help the Kingdom cope with the new responsibilities it is facing in view of the huge influx of Arab and foreign expatriates arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

The announcement was made after a meeting held at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office here presided over by U.N. resident representative Ali Attia.

Those attending the meeting were representatives of UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees.

UNDRO said that it would supply 15 tonnes of blankets, tents and essential drugs from its emergency warehouses in Europe.

The shipment of relief supplies is being airlifted free of charge from Amsterdam by Royal Jordanian (RJ).

With this airlift, expected Sunday evening, UNICEF will have completed its initial response to the Jordanian government's appeal for emergency aid to people transiting Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait en route to their home countries.

Over the past three days, UNICEF had delivered locally-purchased mattresses, water tanks and containers which have been distributed through the Jordanian authorities to refugees in transit at the Marj Al Hamam International Trade Fair Centre south west of Amman.

UNDRO said it was supplying 40 tonnes of biscuits and two plane loads of relief supplies and water bottles as well as blankets and kitchen utensils offered by the Norwegian government.

It said that the planes were due here Monday.

According to UNDRO \$30,000 in cash will be presented to the Jordanian government to purchase other necessities.

## Cairo

(Continued from page 1)  
He said Egypt was in favour of all U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

"I interpret (Resolution 665) as another preventive action to implement Resolution 661 on sanctions and it goes without saying that it will need some time," Abdul Meguid said.

"But the indication is very clear that there is unanimity within the international community about this situation, and maybe this is the most important aspect."

Egypt has also approved of U.N. Resolutions 660 to 665 condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait; demanding its immediate withdrawal; imposing economic sanctions against Iraq, declaring null and void Baghdad's "annexation" of Kuwait and demanding the immediate release of all foreigners held against their will."

## Princess Basma urges special care for women and children evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday urged the authorities which provide assistance to Arab and foreign nationals now living temporarily in Jordan after fleeing Kuwait to give special attention to women and children.

Speaking during a tour of various centres to inspect the services and facilities offered to the evacuees, the Princess expressed appreciation in the different organisations and Jordanian citizens who "have been contributing towards alleviating the suffering of the expatriates at this crucial moment."

The Princess met with the evacuees and enquired about their affairs.

She was re-assured by the concerned officials about measures being taken to provide them with medical help, food supplies and shelter.

Among the centres inspected by the Princess was the International Amman Fair Centre where

evacuees have been under the care of the Jordanian Hashemite Society for Charity and Relief.

Princess Basma was briefed by the society's Secretary-General Abdul Salam Al Ahmadi about the services and about the volume of expatriates benefitting from them, and also about the daily arrivals and departures.

Abbasdi briefed the Princess about the difficulties these expatriates encounter and the services they require urgently.

The society, he said, is coordinating services with the Jordanian boys scouts and girl guides, and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

For its part, the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFW) announced that it had collected JD 2,000 and great quantities of in-kind contributions for the evacuees; and its teams were distributing the donations at various centres.

Mahied Zmeili, the federation's president, said that many of the evacuees were being looked after at mosques and that it was arranging for free medical services to the guests.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) also Sunday announced a series of measures to bring relief to the evacuees who include UNRWA staff.

It said in a statement that assistance and accommodation had been offered to some 450 expatriates from the Philippines, and medical services to up to 7,000 evacuees of different nationalities at the request of the Jordanian government.

The agency, the statement added, has provided 23 buses to transport the expatriates from the border post of Ruweished, near the border with Iraq, to Aqaba where they gather for departure by air or sea.

## Transport sector to lose \$1 billion from sanctions

By Caroline Faraj  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is losing more than one billion dollars annually in the land transportation as a result of the blockade imposed on Iraq, a source for the Transport Ministry said Sunday.

The source added that the price of the 22,000 trailers and trucks which used to operate on Aqaba-Baghdad route, exceeded that amount by far. He added that the aviation sector would sustain an annual loss ranging between 150 and 200 million dinars if the blockade was to continue.

The U.N. Security Council resolution imposing economic embargo on Iraq seems not to have taken into consideration countries like Jordan, which has been going through a choking economic crisis for more than 18 months now.

The resolution did not pay any attention to the people's true

feelings and stands towards their Iraqi brethren. The resolution does not only inflict harm on the Jordanian people but also harms some 55,000 Jordanian workers working in the transport sector.

Aqaba Port last year yielded JD 32 million in cash revenues to the treasury, while this year's revenues until end August were only JD 23 million, including deferred liabilities from previous years.

A well-placed source at the Ports Corporation said that the volume of exports and imports for other countries in the port amounted to almost nothing because of the economic blockade on Iraq.

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## Zionists, arms dealers behind conflict in the Gulf — Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — Major American oil companies which have huge surpluses of oil reserves in the United States are behind Washington's escalation of tension in the Gulf region since they stand to gain from selling their oil at higher prices inside the United States, according to a former minister and noted Jordanian economist Javad Al Anani.

Two other elements are also considered responsible for the current escalation of tension: the Zionist lobby which hopes to see Iraq's strength destroyed, and firms which deal with arms and wish to see regional conflicts flare, now that the cold war is over.

Commenting in a television programme on the U.N. Security

Council resolution allowing various naval forces to use force to enforce the sanction on Iraq, Anani said that the new resolutions has brought the war prospects nearer to the region.

He said the situation would have been different and no foreign powers could have come out in big strength to threaten the Arabs had the Arab countries been united in the face of the common danger.

Anani called on the Arabs to formulate a pan-Arab solution.

He also said that a unified Arab stand can also help resolve the Palestinian problem along the same principles that prompted the world organisation to impose sanctions on Iraq and exercise pressure on that Arab country.

## APPEAL FOR PEACE

### Jordanian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Alarmed by the dangerous military escalation in the Gulf, which threatens an outbreak of war with the high potential of the use of weapons of mass destruction, members of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW Jordan chapter) call on IPPNW members throughout the world to express opposition to this insane and uncontrollable military buildup in the region. We are convinced that this escalation in the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula would have a disastrous impact on the entire region and the world.

We feel that our group should work towards promoting diplomacy and dialogue as the only acceptable means for a settlement of the Gulf conflict. War must be prevented at all costs. It is totally unacceptable and immoral after the end of the cold war to find no alternative to a military solution that could escalate into a confrontation with nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.

The Jordanian members of the IPPNW are fully convinced that there should be no alternative to a peaceful solution to the crisis. It is outrageous that the cold war should end between East and West, with historic and profound changes in the world, while, at the same time, the region witnesses the massing of one of the largest military concentrations since the second world war.

War is not the answer. We appeal to all the parties involved in the conflict to listen to the voice of reason and help solve the region's problems in a spirit of reconciliation and understanding. We call on all members of the IPPNW in all countries of the world to hear our voice and raise theirs with ours to help prevent a war which could kill thousands if not millions of innocent people.

We appeal to you to help us achieve these noble goals:

1. Give peace a chance.
2. Bring about a halt to the escalation of the crisis.
3. Resolve the crisis through diplomatic and political means to prevent a war of mass destruction.

**NO MORE HIROSHIMA**

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarif displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal 9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30.

### SYMPORIUM

\* Symposium entitled "Problems Facing Parents of Handicapped Children" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 9:00 a.m. - 12:30.

### FILM

\* French film entitled "Le Magnifique" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

### PLO unsure of role

(Continued from page 1)

Officials who promote this line argue that the PLO should derive its strength and direction from the overwhelming Palestinian popular support, particularly in the occupied territories and Jordan, for Iraq against the U.S. involvement in the Gulf.

"His Majesty King Hussein,

and, to a lesser extent, Algeria are the only parties who can mediate," said one Palestinian official.

## Jordan Times

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الجريدة العربية الوحيدة التي تنشر في الأردن

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## Forgive the interruption

"LIFE AS usual" it has not been for us here in Jordan for the past twenty-five days. Up and until Aug. 2, when Iraq took over Kuwait, Jordanians were going about their business, conducting their lives, like any other people on earth.

On the political side, we had been in the middle of debating a national charter, a form of social contract between the state and its constituent parts, to reach a framework for organising political life in the Kingdom on the basis of a democratic system and justice for all. We had set foot on a democratic rule last November, when fair and free parliamentary elections were held for the first time since 1967. The foremost task of the charter has been to legalise political parties in a system of government that would be acceptable to the vast majority of Jordanians, if not to all. While committee work on the proposed social contract continues, it has nevertheless been disrupted, or at least overshadowed, by the historic events happening around us.

On the economic front, we had set ourselves on the course of a so-called "correction programme" whose guidelines were drawn up by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Our economy had suffered a near collapse 18 months earlier, when our foreign currency reserves ran out and foreign debt mounted to over \$8 billion. We had been doing well, economic sacrifice on the part of most Jordanian families notwithstanding, and the programme was moving on a target. Up and until Aug. 2 that is. As we now hear that we stand to lose some \$4 billion as a result of the "need" to go along with the international boycott against Iraq.

On the science and education level, we had been holding meetings, seminars and debates almost on daily basis to find the best path towards true development and the right balance of providing good education to all our children within our limited resources.

Both houses of parliament had been busy debating draft laws governing our way of life to replace temporary laws under which we had lived for many years. And in the process, our deputies and senators, along with the press and other institutions, spared no effort in discussing all issues — social, economic and political — pertinent to nation-building and facing outside challenges.

The greatest of those challenges came from Israel, which has been taking in tens of thousands of Soviet and other Jewish immigrants, settling some of them in our (occupied) territories and the rest in an area with very little capacity for human expansion, for lack of water and other material resources.

We had been busy organising our lives, you might say, facing external challenges and building at home for a better future. But the effort had to be interrupted, since what had happened nearby, and what might be happening in the near future, would have the greatest impact on our country and society.

Today everybody in Jordan does not seem to care about the interruption. We do naturally think about it and try to assess what is in it for us, but not to the extent of making it the overriding concern. We simply cannot ignore the fact that everything will depend on the outcome of today's Gulf crisis.

It is not really a question of whether if the Sabah family is reinstated we lose and if it is not we win. The real issue here is whether a war will erupt over this rather irrelevant question. Should a shooting war start, there might not be a semblance of the old life left, not only in Jordan but in the greater part of the whole region. Should, on the other hand, be a way out of this mess, we will can have a sigh of relief. There will remain problems of course. Israel's occupation of Arab lands being on top of them. But then the whole world will have been spared a terrible disaster.

A happy ending can still come if every country that has occupied other territories by force goes back to its original borders. If that entails the continued absence of a hundred or so rich Kuwaitis from power corridors in their country, and the free election of new governments in the evacuated territories, in the West Bank and Gaza and Kuwait, then let that be the solution.

Jordan and the Jordanians would happily forgive the interruption if there were to be such an outcome.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily on Sunday described U.N. Security Council resolution allowing various nations to use force in applying sanctions on Iraq as illegal and violating international laws. The same Security Council which imposed such arbitrary measure has failed for the past 23 years to implement its own resolutions concerning the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights, said the paper. It is really impossible to interpret such an irresponsible and unreasonable attitude on the part of the council members who have failed to force Israel to give up land it has been occupying by force over the past two decades, the paper continued. The Security Council should have adopted the Iraqi initiative which calls for the withdrawal of all forces from other countries' territories including Palestine in a package deal to end the Gulf and other crises in the Middle East, the paper noted. Nations involved in the blockade on Iraq should now realise the dangerous situation in which the Council has placed them now, and they ought to understand that any firing on Iraqi vessels or interceptions could trigger a dangerous conflict that would engulf them as well as the region itself, the paper added. The paper said that the U.N. Security Council resolution has no doubt added a new explosive element to the dangerous situation in the Middle East, but it is up to the leaders of the European nations to take extra care so as not to slide further towards war.

## Demography gains, economy suffers

By Johnathan Karp  
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — An influx of Soviet Jews to Israel poses one of the most serious economic and social challenges since the mass immigration of Jews from Arab states in the 1950s.

Israel sees demographic benefits from the influx and the government forecasts that a million Soviet immigrants could flood the country by the end of 1994, boosting the Jewish population by 27 per cent and the total population by 20 per cent.

While it should pull Israel's economy out of two years of stagnation, the jolt is too strong. The influx has sparked fierce debate over spending priorities and warnings of lower living standards.

The finance ministry estimates the immigration will cost up to \$20 billion, a steep price for a country with an annual state budget of \$33 billion and foreign currency reserves of \$4.2 billion.

"No matter how the government balances the budget and cut subsidies it will not have the money to fund the immigration," a Bank of Israel economist told Reuters. Israel would have to borrow from the United States, he said.

Six months ago Israeli leaders were delighted by the flow for increasing the Jewish majority over the 650,000 Palestinians in Israel and 1.75 million in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Today, after the arrival of at least 70,000 Soviet Jews, Israel is groping to solve a housing shortage that could reach 29,000 units this year, find jobs for newcomers amid more than 10 per cent unemployment — the highest in two decades — and keep a lid on 18 per cent annual inflation.

Efforts to tackle the problem come against a backdrop of street demonstrations by Israelis — who have been forced out of their homes by soaring rents — and of sharp criticism of a cut in bread subsidies to help finance the immigration.

Parliament this month passed a \$1.2 billion budget supplement that shifted funds to immigration, and the cabinet approved a plan to import 14,000 ready-made homes and let private businesses bring in 6,000 more.

"It will mean a greater balance of payments deficit, further pressure on foreign currency reserves and greater

difficulty in raising capital for the Israeli economy," said Finance Ministry Director General Yaakov Lifshitz in opposing the housing plan.

Despite Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's demand that the state shoulder most of the cost, the treasury insists it cannot increase the budget deficit beyond its already high level of about six per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, trying to shrink the state role in the economy, has urged businessmen to share the "risk and credit" for absorbing immigrants. He also wants to revive dormant privatisation programme to raise foreign currency.

Modai plans to submit a plan soon to liberalise the economy.

Among economic targets outlined by the treasury for the next five years is the creation of 540,000 jobs just to keep unemployment at nine per cent until the end of 1994.

The current workforce is about 1.5 million of the 4.6 million citizens.

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In Baghdad, Saddam was at the airport to greet the Sudanese leader and the two Libyan envoys, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. They began their talks soon afterwards.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat was also in Baghdad where he was reported to have asked the Soviet Union to "work harder" to avoid war in the Gulf region.

The Palestinian news agency

WAFA said Arafat told Soviet special envoy Mikhail Stenko that the PLO "rejected attempts by the United States aiming to reestablish their domination over the region and to impose their conditions."

Moscow has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but said it would not join U.S. and British warships in the Gulf in using force to enforce a blockade against Baghdad.

## King begins Maghreb tour

(Continued from page 1)

Liberation Organisation's political department passed through Amman before meeting Saddam in Baghdad in the past two days.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem flew to Bahrain Sunday after a trip to China and handed a message from King Hussein to the emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

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## U.N. chief, Aziz to meet here

(Continued from page 1)

"Whether it's possible to start a dialogue I cannot foresee right now, but I think it's important to make an effort to negotiate," he told reporters.

"It is a very serious situation, one of the most serious since the Cuban missile crisis, since the Berlin blockade," he said, referring to Moscow's attempt to cut off supplies to West Berlin, surrounded by then-communist East Germany.

President Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft sidestepped a question Saturday of how much force the United States was willing to use to choke off commerce to and from Iraq.

Asked during a Cable News Network interview whether the United States planned to board, seize or even sink ships moving goods between Iraq and other nations, Scowcroft said only that American vessels will use "the minimum amount of interference with traffic in order to make the sanctions effective."

Scowcroft said the U.N. resolution "means no commerce should go in and out of Iraq" by sea and that means that vessels will be stopped and inspected, "effective immediately."

Asked whether the United States now had a free hand in the Gulf to do as it wants in enforcing the blockade, he said "I believe

we will attack them," Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem said in an interview Saturday.

Jassem said Iraq would not, in the first instance, retaliate against Saudi Arabia or the vulnerable tankers lifting oil from the main Saudi oil terminal at Ras Tanura in the Gulf.

However he did not rule out

the possibility that a conflict between Iraq and the Western blocking squadrons in the Gulf would ultimately affect the oil fields.

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American intelligence officials say the tanker crews are under orders from Baghdad to ignore warnings to halt, even if fired upon, the paper said.

that's the case."

Meanwhile, the New York Times reported in Sunday's editions that the administration was studying the possibility of offering political asylum to the crews of Iraqi vessels to persuade them to cooperate with the embargo.

The idea is to persuade the crews to give up without resorting to violence, the paper reported.

Quoting administration and Pentagon officials who spoke on condition of anonymity,

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Meanwhile, the New York Times reported in Sunday's editions that the administration was studying the possibility of offering political asylum to the crews of Iraqi vessels to persuade them to cooperate with the embargo.

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## Features

# Political and economic future bleak for Bulgaria

By Michael Battye  
Reuter

**NEW DELHI** — Artillery duels in the high Himalayas of Kashmir have renewed fears to India and Pakistan that the two old enemies will go to war yet again over the territory.

The "will-won't-they" debate is in full swing.

Some Western diplomats said in Delhi on Friday they were pessimistic after Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh promised parliament a "well-graded response" to heavy shelling he charged Pakistan had started.

"You are talking about grading upwards. That wasn't good news. It's definitely worrying," said

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since independence from Britain in 1947 — two of them over Kashmir — was less pessimistic but still appeared nervous.

"We can only hope and pray it doesn't happen. We would expect that things shouldn't go that far," Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said in an interview.

India, however, was sanguine. "War is not going to happen.

The game is more subtle than that," said a close aide to Singh. But what worries many of both sides is that a game requiring astute management of delicately balanced pressures could easily get out of control.

Those pressures include severe internal political problems in both countries that might be cured by war and teos of thousands of nervous soldiers facing each other at close range.

Above all there is the deep emotion aroused by any problem involving nations partitioned on independence amid bloodshed in which more than one million people died.

Said one source who asked not to be identified, a colleague who spoke with Singh found him passionately anti-Pakistan. "He was not at all conciliatory, which we found very depressing."

But despite all that, most Indians who follow their nation's relations with Pakistan closely do not foresee war.

"Each side will keep the pot boiling for the other without wanting to let the pressure get out of hand," said analyst Pran Chopra of Delhi's Centre for Policy Research.

Last year's thoughts of improving relations vanished when a separatist uprising in Jammu and

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, burst on an unprepared Indian government in January.

More than 1,100 people have been killed and Indian security forces have been accused of rape, torture and looting.

Delhi says Pakistan is arming and training the Kashmiri militants and that it started the artillery duels — the first in the area since 1962 according to experts in both capitals — to cover infiltration of fighters.

That is flatly denied in Islamabad. "The fact is we have nothing to do with what Kashmiris are doing on their own," said a Pakistani military spokesman.

Pakistan gives only moral support, Jatoi said.

Nobody in Delhi believes that any more than anyone in Islamabad believes Indian denials that it is behind violence in Pakistan's Sind province that started again when the melting of spring snow allowed Kashmiri militants to infiltrate over the passes.

Delhi officials say Islamabad's goal is, by taking Kashmir, to start the break-up of polyglot India, which faces two other serious separatist movements, and end its role as regional superpower.

Indian analysts generally doubt it can do that.

"But even so, if they can keep it on the boil it is a very low investment to make to keep India off balance and embarrass India internationally a great deal," said Chopra.

Meetings between senior foreign ministry officials failed to open up ways to calm the tension.

"The meetings were totally and completely ineffective," said a senior Indian official. "Things are not better."

Nor are they likely to get better if India is correct in saying the militants plan to infiltrate up to 6,000 fighters and big quantities of arms before snow starts closing

the passes from Pakistani Kashmir in late September.

"We are in for a very bad winter," said the official. "That means there will be more tension, but not a war."

Some Western diplomats said they feared India might launch an attack to end Pakistan's alleged support for separatists in Kashmir and Punjab once and for all.

Senior officials denied any such plans and Chopra said war made no strategic sense.

"India's interest is in keeping what it has. It is not in India's interest to carry the war across to the other side. No sane calculation would advocate that."

## Swedish model develops cracks

By Clare Pedrick

**STOCKHOLM** — The Swedish model, the system which came to be the envy of Western Europeans and drew grudging respect from the Communist East, is beginning to show its age.

After more than 50 years of cosseting its citizens with cradle-to-the-grave benefits, Sweden's government has made it clear that the good times are over. The political crisis which erupted in February has also become a crisis of ideology for Ingvar Carlsson's Social Democrats, the party which has dominated Swedish politics for over half a century and that was the architect of the social welfare state.

Flying in the face of cherished party ideals centered on a system of lavish benefits for all, Carlsson has staked his political future on a series of very un-Swedish measures. A tough austerity package, which would have included a two-year wage and price freeze and a law banning strikes, was rejected and the government fell, but Carlsson succeeded in reviving it with a watered-down formula.

Heading the list of changes in a far-reaching fiscal reform which will cut income tax rates by half for many people. In a country which has traditionally had the highest income taxes in the world to pay for its elaborate welfare system, the move is a dramatic one. From Jan. 1, 1991, the upper limit will be cut from 72 per cent to 50 per cent. Around 85 per cent of the population will end up paying the base rate of 30 per cent, says the government.

For many people in Sweden, it was time for a change, it seems. The cracks in the Swedish model have been showing for while. "The old recipes aren't working any more," commented Hans Tson Soderstrom, executive director of Stockholm's Business and Policies Studies Centre, an economic think-tank.

Based on a two-pronged policy of a catch-all welfare state and full employment for everyone, the Swedish model has long been admired for the high living standards it afforded its citizens and for the ideals it managed to preserve while doing so. Over the years, even Communists from the East Bloc came to see it as the almost-acceptable face of capitalism, and it provided a model that new governments in Eastern Europe regarded as their best option.

Swedish citizens are looked after from the minute they are born until they draw their last breath. Ironically, the only time they are not covered is after death itself — a funeral is one of the few services not paid for by the state. Births are, however, and so are kindergartens, schools, universities, hospitals and homes for the elderly. There are generous allowances for every eventuality — in the form of sick pay, child care, housing, unemployment benefits, disability and retirement pensions.

"Whatever happens to you in Sweden, the public sector will

take care of you," said Dr. Sven-Olsson, a sociologist at Stockholm University and author of a recently published book on the Swedish welfare state. The price, of course, is high taxes.

"It's the old Marxist proposition: from everyone according to his ability, to everyone according to his need," said Soderstrom.

"The trouble is, the Swedish model as it used to be just isn't functioning anymore. The whole

line of thinking has changed. People are beginning to see that it serves a useful purpose to let people retain more of what they earn and to let them pay for the things they use."

Hoping to arrest the problem of lack of incentive and to encourage the Swedes to start saving, Carlsson's government has replaced a large chunk of direct taxation with more duties on purchased goods and services. The total revenue will remain the same, but the Swedish people will have more money in their pay packets and will be able to choose how they spend it.

But high taxation is not the only reason for the crisis. An important factor in the Social Democratic philosophy has been its labour policy, one which is now starting to fall apart at the seams.

Sweden is one of the few non-Communist countries to have achieved full employment, perceiving it as the right of every man — and woman — to earn his place in society by working. Unemployment currently stands at an incredible low 1.5 per cent. But, worryingly, its aims may be it is a policy which many now agree has backfired, giving rise to two grave problems — labour shortages and spiralling wage increases.

The system worked well as long as wage negotiations were controlled by the LO, the giant blue-collar trade union federation which, under an agreement drawn up back in 1938, undertook to bargain on behalf of all Swedish workers with the em-

ployers federation, the SAF. For decades, as the economy flourished, both sides were able to agree on fair wage raises and everyone was happy. But, with the dawning of less prosperous times in the 1970s and 1980s, things began to change. The LO lost its grip and other unions began to emerge. The trend for centralised bargaining was replaced by bargaining at a more local level.

With more jobs than people, the result was an explosion of wage demands. Workers could ask what they liked and often got it. In the first few months of this year, Sweden was hit by a wave of strikes. "These days, everyone feels they have been mistreated. It's everyone's war against everyone," said Soderstrom.

People are starting to compare each other in a way they never did before," said Anders Mellbourn, a political scientist and journalist at Stockholm's daily newspaper "Dagens Nyheter."

So what happened to the old Swedish ideals of equality and socialism?

"We thought we were altruists, and we were as long as things went well," said Mellbourn. "It's very easy to be generous when you feel you are getting something yourself. When that's no longer the case, it becomes more difficult."

In a sense, the Swedish model has become a victim of its own success. The original aims of taxing the rich to pay for the poor have become obscured as prosperity has come to almost all.

"Once the middle-class income bracket found itself being hit by high taxes the system wasn't as popular as it was when it only affected the very rich," said Mellbourn. "Life wasn't so funny anymore."

Sture Nordh, at 38 one of Sweden's youngest and best-known trade union leaders, is among those who believe the old model is teetering. "It's really sad. The only thing that counts in

Swedish society any more is what can be valued in kroners," he said. "I still believe that Swedish people have a social conscience. But I have to say it's not as strong as it used to be."

As head of the SKTF — the Union of Local Government Officers — Sweden's second biggest white-collar union, Nordh is in daily contact with members who work in the health and social services and the picture, he says, is a sorry one. Swedes' services are not what they were, partly because of financial problems, and partly because the system has grown too big and unwieldy to be efficient.

There are waiting lists of up to two years for medical operations such as cataracts and hip replacements. Staff shortages mean that home visits to help wash, feed and clean for the elderly, that most people would get very upset if that were no longer the case," he said.

"On the other hand, the average person wants more money in his pocket. If it comes down to a choice, I think many people will opt to pay higher taxes."

Others believe the Swedes have already reached saturation point when it comes to taxes, and they predict that privatisation will be the way forward.

To the Social Democratic Party, such a prospect is anathema, particularly among the old guard who have issued warnings about giving birth to a two-tier system. There are signs, however, that privatisation is already happening in some sectors: Two years ago, a home for the elderly in a Stockholm suburb became the first such establishment to be contracted out to a private company. Again in Stockholm, city council officials faced with staff shortages have been forced to hand over projects for the rehabilitation of alcoholics and drug addicts to the private sector. "Some people would like to throw the Swedish model out. I personally think it should be modified," said Mellbourn.

The social services budget currently has a hole of about Sk20 billion (\$3.2 billion), says Nordh. "The quality of services in some of the big cities is already dreadful. If nothing is done, there are going to be really big problems and we are going to have to start reducing services." Nordh is one

of many who believe the Swedish people have yet to wake up to the seriousness of the situation. Lulled by decades of being coddled by the state, they cannot believe the cocoon is in danger of falling apart.

"The idea that citizenship entitles you to a basic social and medical security is still very strong in this country," he said. "The trouble is, no politician has had the guts to tell the people that it boils down to a choice between paying higher taxes or having fewer services."

Nordh claims that if presented with the dilemma, most Swedes would opt to pay more. Sociologist Sven-Olsson agrees: "We live with an odd contradiction in this country. There is such a strong philosophy that, for example, you should take care of the elderly, that most people would get very upset if that were no longer the case."

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The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

**Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:**  
**The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398,** Tel. 639555 (02)242518  
**GUVS - Amman Governorate** (09)981712  
**GUVS - Zarqa Governorate** (05)555285  
**GUVS - Baiqa Governorate** (03)351169  
**GUVS - Ma'an Governorate** (03)32477  
**GUVS - Tafileh Governorate** (03)342365  
**GUVS - Mafraq Governorate** (04)432040  
**Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.**

## APPEAL

### MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

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EASTERIN

**MOTOR RACING**

## Senna wins Belgian Grand Prix

**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS (AP)** — Ayrton Senna dominated the Belgian Grand Prix in his McLaren-Honda from start to finish Sunday and easily beat Alain Prost of France, extending the Brazilian's lead in the Formula One standings.

Senna's teammate, Austria's Gerhard Berger, finished third and Italy's Alessandro Nannini was fourth in his Benetton-Ford after a tough battle between the two.

It was the third year in a row Senna has won the Belgian Grand Prix, with Prost finishing second.

With only five of 16 Grand Prix races remaining, Senna has 63 points in the World Championship, 13 more than Prost.

It took three attempts to get the race underway, after crashes drew red flags on the first two.

The first was quickly brought under control and Barilla was not seriously injured.

On the third try, pole-sitter Senna took the lead and steadily widened it over Berger, who held off Prost until the 13th lap.

But the defending world champion slipped past the Austrian going into the Chicane and began pursuit of Senna.

Both changed tires on the 21st

lap, enabling Nannini to get between the two as they both returned to the track.

That lasted Senna only five laps when Prost, again using the approach to the Chicane, passed the Italian.

But Senna was in control on the 6.94-kilometre track through the green Ardennes hills of southern Belgium. He pulled away when he wanted to and finished with a comfortable 7.702-second margin at the finish, averaging 211.729 kph (132.331 mph).

Piquet finished fifth, ahead of fellow-Brazilian Manoel Gugelmin and Italy's Ivan Capelli.

Next year, Senna can equal the record of Jim Clark of Great Britain, who won four consecutive Belgian Grand Prix races from 1962-1965.

## Graf, Capriati to meet in Jersey final

**MAHWAH, New Jersey (Agencies)** — Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati overwhelmed Wimbledon finalist Zina Garrison 6-1,

6-2 Saturday to earn a berth in the final of the \$160,000 women's classic opposite world number one Steffi Graf.

While Graf had a few lapses of concentration in the first set before breaching Leila Meskhi of Soviet Union 7-5, 6-3 in her semifinal, Capriati was at the top of her game in routine, following American Garrison in just 53 minutes.

Graf beat Capriati in their only previous meeting 6-2, 6-4 in the fourth round at Wimbledon. The West German lost her chance to repeat as champion at the All England Club when she fell to Garrison in the semifinals.

"I played very well, one of my best matches ever," said Capriati. "I worked out strategies but he was left behind. So I rode with my own strategy. I tried my best for my country."

Michael Marcusen of Denmark took the silver medal with 15 points while the bronze went to Australian Danny Clarke, who was a lap behind. Biondi's compatriot Moresco placed sixth.

In the Amateur Tandem, the Italian pair beat a team of Japanese high school students — Toshihiko Saito and Naruhiko Inamura — in two straight races at

## Biondi wins World Cycling Championship

**MAEBASHI, Japan (AP)** — Laurent Biondi captured the Professional Points Race Sunday to secure France's first gold medal in the World Cycling Championship on the final day of track racing.

Other gold medal winners Sunday were Gianluca Capitano and Federico Parisi of Italy in the Amateur Tandem and Stephen McGlede of Australia in the Men's Amateur Point's Race.

Biondi covered 150 laps around the 333-metre course at the green dome in 59 minutes, 32.604 seconds to collect 38 points.

"It's my biggest victory," Biondi said. "Francis Moreau and I worked out strategies but he was left behind. So I rode with my own strategy. I tried my best for my country."

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## HOROSCOPE

**FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 27, 1990**  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You are starting to feel the effect of Mercury retrograde but you can still make headway by showing considerable charm and courtesy that are valued and appreciated by your associates.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Now you would be wise to eliminate whatever confusion is present in handling the details of your own special talent by understanding every single factor involved.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Consider your residence today from the standpoint of how you can make conditions work out better there with less tension on your family.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) It is advisable you doublecheck any transportation activities before engaging in them and to use much care when in motion to prevent injuries.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) A good day, to get into whatever sums you wish to collect or invoices that need to be paid for you can straighten out your bookkeeping now.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Forego a conference with an outsider of influence whom you hope to convince a project you have in mind is deserving until a better time.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A day to get into the various details necessary to improve and to make your surroundings both more comfortable as well as attractive.

## Lendl, Krickstein reach final of WCT Tournament of Champions

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jimmy Connors said he would not play in the U.S. Open after leg cramps forced him to retire from an exhibition match Saturday against Ivan Lendl.

"I think it would be better for me not to play the open due to the fact that I don't think I can go out there and play the kind of tennis necessary to give it an all-out effort," Connors said, after leg cramps and heat exhaustion led to his retirement from a quarterfinal match at the WCT Tournament of Champions.

Connors, a five-time champion, has played in 20 consecutive U.S. Opens, second only to the 24 straight played by Vie Seixas. From 1974 through 1985, he reached the semifinals 12 straight times, the most by any man.

He has won a men's record 107 matches, second only to the 113 by Chris Evert.

"Unless something drastic happens, I will not play next week," Connors added.

Asked by what he meant by "drastic," Connors said, "waking up and finding myself 10 years younger."

"It was good fun while it lasted," he added.

Connors was playing in his first tournament since early February, when he suffered an injury to his left wrist. He said it was his physical conditioning, not his ailments, that resulted in his decision to pull out of the open.

Connors and Lendl had just

begun the third set at the West Side Tennis Club when Connors was forced to withdraw. With Connors serving, the left-hander, who will be 38 on Sept. 2, ended a long point in the second game by sprinting to the net and lifting a winning forehand down the line.

He continued to the umpire's chair and told umpire Kim Craven he was retiring from the match. He immediately went to the clubhouse at the West Side Tennis Club to have his leg examined.

"His left calf was cramping and he was exhausted," a tournament spokesman said. "And he was beginning to cramp elsewhere in his body."

Connors began limping noticeably in the final game of the second set, which Lendl won 7-5. Connors had taken the first set 6-3.

Earlier Saturday, Aaron Krickstein advanced to the semifinals at Sunday's title match. Lendl defeated Henri Leconte of France 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-1 and Krickstein stopped Spain's Emilio Sanchez 6-4, 7-6 (8-6).

Connors had won the first set, much to the delight of the crowd in the famed horseshoe-shaped stadium at Forest Hills.

The second set began just like the first — with the two breaking each other's serve in the first games. They then stayed on serve until the 12th game, when Lendl, down 40-30, won three straight points to level the match at one set apiece.

## MOTORCYCLING

## Rainey wins Czechoslovak Grand Prix and World Championship

**BRNO, Czechoslovakia (R)** — Californian Wayne Rainey won the 500 cc World Motorcycling Championship Sunday with a commanding victory in the Czechoslovak Grand Prix.

Rainey's win gave him an unbeatable total of 240 points with two races remaining, 67 points more than his closest rival Kevin Schwantz, who crashed and lost all hope of the title.

Australian former champion Wayne Gardner, riding a Honda, finished in second place and defending world champion Eddie Lawson, Rainey's team mate, third.

Rainey began cautiously, allowing Lawson and Gardner to pass him, and calmly settled into third place behind them.

Rainey, who also rode the fastest lap of 2:03.718 — at an average 156.957 kph — was so far ahead on the last lap that he was able to have fans before he crossed the line.

## Sales stumps Sanchez

**HAVERFORD, Pennsylvania (AP)** — Monica Seles recovered from slow starts in both sets Saturday to beat ailing Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-2 and win the Kiss 100 invitational tennis tournament.

Seles, the reigning French Open champion and winner of 43 of her last 44 matches, overpowered Sanchez Vicario with ground strokes, winning 11 of the last 14 games to capture the \$20,000 prize.

The victory makes the 16-year-old only the second player to win this event. Martina Navratilova won the first three championships.

## Marseille held to draw but stays at the top

**PARIS (R)** — Reigning champions Marseille could manage no more than a 1-1 draw in Nantes but still remained two points clear at the top of the French League after their main rivals failed to take advantage.

Brest, who could have closed the gap, had to settle for a 2-2 draw at Auxerre and have eight points alongside Monaco and Caen.

Of the main title contenders only Caen registered a win with English midfielder Graham Rix supplying both goals in their 2-0 victory over Toulouse to enable them to move into joint second

place.

Monaco had been held to a goalless draw at Bordeaux Friday.

Nantes looked set to become the first team to beat Marseille this season when Tierno Youn squared for striker Christophe Robert to head past goalkeeper Pascal Olmeta 10 minutes from the end.

But six minutes later international defender Basile Boli ruined Nantes' hopes, also with a header.

Nice, still looking for their first victory of the season, moved off the bottom of the table

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



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**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Look into ways to do simple courtesies for your good friends and in this manner you can turn this into a constructive time for all concerned.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Consider what your worldly aims are and do the minute connected with them today and you make headway towards attainment of your ambitions.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Don't rush into any pleasures or good time today until you know exactly what to expect and what the obligations to you will be comprised of.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) A good day, to get into whatever sums you wish to collect or invoices that need to be paid for you can straighten out your bookkeeping now.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Forego a conference with an outsider of influence whom you hope to convince a project you have in mind is deserving until a better time.

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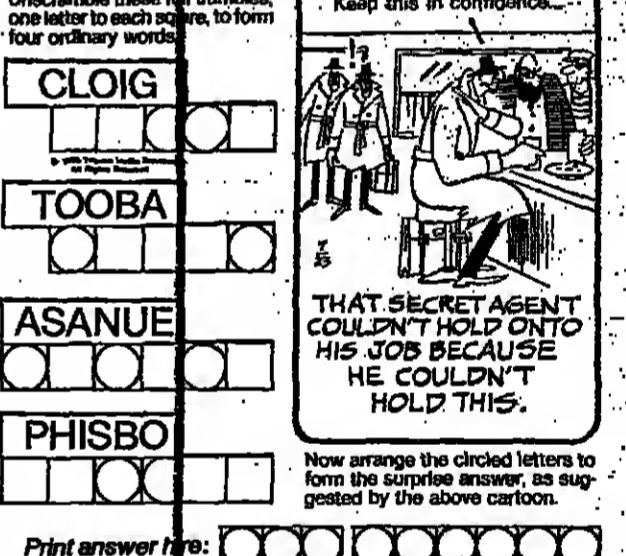
## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:

Saturday's CAPON ENTRY MUSLIN DRUDGE  
Answer: He doesn't understand that his wife does -- UNDERTAND HIM

## THE Daily Crossword

by Louis Sabin



# Economy

## Philippines increases oil stock against Gulf crisis

**MANILA** (R) — The Philippines will import four million more barrels of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Malaysia and Indonesia this year to cushion the impact of the Gulf crisis, President Corazon Aquino said Sunday.

The added oil stocks were also seen as bids to ward off another coup attempt by army rebels, who staged the sixth and bloodiest putsch last December after Aquino raised local petrol prices a month earlier.

Speaking on her weekly Sunday radio programme, Aquino urged Filipinos to understand the need for impending petrol price increases in the country due to rising world crude prices.

She said her government would try to keep oil prices in the Philippines the lowest in Asia. "Our country must face the fact that we cannot maintain the current prices of oil," she said.

Aquino said she had instructed energy officials to seek further oil supplies from non-Middle East countries, including China, Manila is also negotiating with Mexico and Brunei.

Under the recent agreements, Iran will supply this year 2.4 million barrels of crude oil, Saudi Arabia 900,000 barrels, Malaysia 500,000 and Indonesia 300,000, the Philippine National Oil Company said.

"The Philippines is assured of

sufficient supply of crude oil to last up to the end of the year," the oil firm said in a report to Aquino, copies of which were given in reporters.

Aquino said Iran also "responded favourably" to a further request by Manila for an additional 20,000 barrels a day, which would raise Iran's commitment to 4.8 million barrels. Tehran radio said Iran had agreed in principle to the request.

Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus arrived in Tehran Saturday and met Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh to seek alternative sources after U.N. sanctions against Baghdad dried up exports from Kuwait and Iraq.

## Data shows Brazil entering worst recession in 10 years

**RIO DE JANEIRO** (R) — President Fernando Collor de Mello's draconian anti-inflation plan implemented in March has triggered Brazil's worst recession in ten years, according to data from the government statistics institute.

In the three months since Collor froze a third of the nation's wealth, ended indexation of wages to prices and slashed government spending, Brazil's gross domestic product (GDP) fell 8.8 per cent compared to the same period a year ago, the IBGE institute said in data released late Saturday.

Industry was hit hardest by the plan. The freeze on liquidity meant a sharp fall in orders which sent production crashing 16.87 per cent between April and June compared with the same period in 1989. Agricultural output slumped by 5.01 per cent.

## Stock trader loses \$100m

**ENGLEWOOD**, Colorado (AP) — A financial adviser afraid to face his clients admitted in a videotape message that he lost about \$100 million of investors' money by making risky trades in stock options.

More than 7,000 investors may be affected, according to lawyers. Included are several large retirement funds.

"Words aren't adequate to express my regret and sorrow," said Jim Donahue, head of the Hedged Securities Associates Limited Partnership, based in Colorado. "I feel terrible remorse for the things I've done to you."

H. Alan Dill, attorney for the partnership, said the organisation has about \$5.25 million in assets remaining and will seek bankruptcy protection to sort out investor claims.

Donahue sent a videotape to the investor meeting instead of appearing in person because he feared for his safety, his aides said.

Donahue, 62, was known as an aggressive trader in stock options, contracts to buy or sell a stock for a specified price in the future.

## Politics and oil logic threaten to split OPEC

**VIENNA** (R) — OPEC oil ministers started informal talks in Vienna Sunday divided on whether to approve a rise in output above quotas to plug supply gaps caused by the Gulf crisis.

Delegates said consensus was growing that extra supply will be needed if the crisis drags on and oil from Iraq and Kuwait remains shut in beyond October by world sanctions.

That is when the advent of the northern winter will begin to fire up fuel demand to nearly 25 million barrels a day compared to current OPEC output of around 19 million barrels.

Iraqi Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi had by midday not appeared at the talks, but OPEC statutes would permit him to object later to any resolution if he stays away.

Still, the Saudis and Venezuelans would be happy with a majority rather than a unanimous resolution.

Delegates said, however, that some OPEC members felt the issue could blow apart OPEC, the group founded 30 years ago on Sept. 10 in Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia, apparently on the brink of war with Iraq, and Venezuela were leading the bid for a formal OPEC move to suspend output quotas.

They were trying to persuade a majority to turn the informal consultations among some ministers into a decision-taking conference. A quorum needs 10 of the 13 members.

At least 10, including the top-placed Kuwait government, were expected in Vienna by the end of Sunday and Qatar's delegate, Sheikh Abdullah Al Thani, said he expected a formal conference would be convened within 48 hours.

At the same time, they felt there was a risk OPEC would break up.

Libya was likely to back Iraq, the delegates said.

Algeria, which abstained on a recent Cairo Arab League resolution against Iraq, holds the presidency of OPEC. Its minister, Sadek Boussena, told Reuters Saturday, "I am a man of the law. I will abide by the statute."

Speaking for Algeria, he said he believed OPEC would have to act at some stage to make up lost supply if real shortages are threatened — provided the West helped by drawing on its stocks.

"We know that a shortage of oil, if that really occurs, will not help the global economy of which Algeria is a part," he said.

The Algerians and most others in OPEC recognise that a new oil "shock" would cause a world recession, depressing energy demand, and stampede the West into energy-saving policies.

The Saudis, however, face the task in OPEC of persuading the majority that the time to act is now.

They agree that there is no shortage yet and that prices have risen above \$30 because of fears of war in the Gulf, not because of tight supply.

## Kuwaitis have plenty of cash

**LONDON** (AP) — Kuwait's top-placed government has "plenty of cash," the finance minister said Saturday, and it is shopping for bargains in stock markets depressed by Middle East turmoil.

He also said at a news conference that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are discussing a possible crude oil for petroleum products exchange to help Kuwait's international refineries while his country is occupied by Iraq.

"I can rule out selling any big stakes" in companies in which Kuwait government funds are invested, Sheikh Ali said. Indeed, he said, the Kuwait Investment Office believes it is "the right time, in a lot of places, to pick shares."

Friday, the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) purchased shares in the German market, and it will probably buy shares in the United Kingdom, Sheikh Ali said.

The Kuwait government and the KIO "don't feel in any way harmed" in their financial operations by the asset freeze placed on Kuwaiti holdings by world governments following the Aug. 2 takeover by Iraq, Sheikh Ali said.

Despite steps taken by several government to freeze Kuwaiti assets to protect them from seizure by Iraq, the government has been allowed "the full right to manage" its assets, and would have no problem even in shifting assets across borders, he said.

Sheikh Ali declined to describe the size of Kuwait's cash holdings or to place any value on the funds invested in Britain or elsewhere.

He likewise offered no details of the proposed swap with Saudi Arabia. "We are discussing the possibility of exchanges," he said, and praised the Saudi government for being "extremely forthcoming" in assisting Kuwait's government.

Asked about the amount of gold and cash seized by the Iraqis in Kuwait, Sheikh Ali said the amount may be "a little more, a little less" than \$800 million.

## China expands oil plans

**BEIJING** (AP) — China plans to recruit foreign help in developing its offshore oil resources over the next decade, and official report said Sunday.

Some flights have been cancelled by airlines under pressure from aircrew unions and others may follow as military tension builds between Iraq and a U.S.-led multinational force massing in and around Saudi Arabia.

The China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) plans to improve conditions for foreign investors whose technical and financial help is needed to exploit offshore oil fields, the China Daily reported.

China has reached a plateau in its oil production because many onshore fields are exhausted and most offshore projects remain commercially unfeasible, CNOOC spokesman Wu Xinduo was quoted as saying.

Faced with severe energy shortages due to growing industrial and residential demand, the state-owned oil firm plans to step up construction of seven oil and gas fields in the South China Sea and in the northeastern Bohai Gulf, the report said.

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## Gulf conflict causes economic hardship in West Bank, Gaza

**NUSSEIRAT** CAMP, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Abu Raed Kharwan, who built a career as an accountant in Kuwait, now finds himself stranded in this squalid Palestinian refugee camp where he was born 39 years ago.

"I used to send money home," Kharwan said as he sat on his father's porch in the white cotton gown typical of Gulf dress. "Now I am a burden."

Kharwan is among thousands of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories who face economic hardship as a result of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Jobs and years of savings are in jeopardy, as are Kuwaiti government contributions that maintained Palestinian hospitals and refugee aid programmes.

Ironically, most Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip support Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom they see as an increasingly powerful leader capable of restoring Arab pride and supporting their cause for independence.

But Gulf workers like Kharwan carefully temper their backing. "We Palestinians are not with Saddam against Kuwait," he said. "We are with Saddam against the United States."

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## Sri Lankan forces take 2nd island from rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The government said Sunday its troops overran a second rebel-held island and killed more than 80 Tamil guerrillas in its advance along the heavily mined causeway leading to Jaffna.

Vowing to crush the Tamil Tiger guerrillas once and for all, the government has staked its prestige on breaking the rebel siege of Jaffna Fort.

According to military officials in Colombo, government troops are now about 4 kilometres from the 17th century fort where about 250 policemen and soldiers have been trapped for 10 weeks.

There was no confirmation of the government's claim that its forces captured Mandatuvu Island after a fierce three-hour battle Saturday night.

Communications to the Jaffna peninsula, 300 kilometres northeast of Colombo were cut after June 11 when the Tigers broke a 13-month-old ceasefire with the government. The combatants use radios and communicate with colleagues outside the peninsula.

The last word from the Tigers

was Friday when a guerrilla spokesman in Geneva acknowledged government forces were trying to advance from Kayts Island to Mandatuvu Island. Government troops landed on Kayts Island Wednesday, dislodging Tamil fighters.

The islands are connected by a causeway that continues across the Jaffna lagoon and ends just beside Jaffna fort.

Military officials in Colombo, who under briefing rules cannot be identified, claimed 84 Tigers and only two government soldiers were killed in the battle for Mandatuvu Island.

They said advancing troops found the bodies of 28 rebels on Mandatuvu and killed 16 others who tried to swim to safety. Another 40 Tigers were killed in strafing from a helicopter gunship as they tried to reach the mainland, the officials said.

The government says it now expects to reach Jaffna Fort by Monday.

The star-shaped fort, a legacy of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial rule, is the Sinhalese-controlled government's only

outpost in Tamil-populated Jaffna town.

But the causeway is heavily mined, the military officials said. In the seven years since militants from the Tamil minority revolted against Sinhalese rule, the Tigers have proved devastatingly effective at making and planting mines.

Since launching their latest offensive against the Tigers last Wednesday, the government says it has stepped up aerial attacks on rebel positions around Jaffna Fort.

The Tigers have not acknowledged any losses but have accused the government of killing more than 300 Tamil civilians in bombing and strafing raids and ground fire on the Jaffna peninsula, where 850,000 people live.

The government says 5,000 people have been killed since June 11 when the Tigers broke the ceasefire in northern and eastern Sri Lanka where most Tamils live. That brings to at least 14,000 the number of victims of the 7-year-old Tamil insurrection.

Fighting in the east has tapered



off, with the Tigers retreating into the swamps and jungles while the government deploys in the towns.

Tamils make up 18 per cent of the Indian Ocean island's 16 million people. They have long complained that the Sinhalese majority discriminates against them in the jobs, education and use of the Sinhala language. Militants sought to create a separate homeland for Tamils in the northeast.

Sinhalese, who account for 75 per cent of the population, have dominated politics and the military since Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1949.

"It is feared that the proportions of the accident are large, perhaps catastrophic," Tanjug said.

Tanjug said that rescue teams had found eight bodies and were desperately trying to reach the others trapped by the blast at Kreka Colliery in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mine officials, contacted by telephone from Belgrade, confirmed that at least three bodies had been found but that more miners were feared dead.

They said the blast damaged ventilation and transport shafts so that rescue teams had to follow a difficult and long route to reach the trapped miners.

"But we are going on with the search and working as quickly and efficiently as we can," one official said.

Tanjug said rescue teams from nearby mines had been put on alert and were ready to join the rescue operation. It said veteran rescue workers at the Zenica Coal Mine were preparing to go to Tuzla.

The Kreka explosion was potentially the worst mine disaster in Yugoslavia since 91 coalminers were killed in a fire in the Aleksina mine in Serbia last November.

Kreka mine officials said that at least two miners who were close to the surface survived the blast and were in hospital with slight injuries.

## 21 die, 33 missing as Taiwan yacht sinks

NANTOU, Taiwan (AP) — A yacht carrying oil company employees on a moon-gazing excursion overturned on a lake in central Taiwan, killing 21 people, police said Sunday. At least 33 were missing and feared dead.

In London, a spokesman for Shell Oil Co., whose subsidiary Shell Taiwan Ltd. chartered the yacht, said about 80 employees were aboard. A list provided by the travel agent for the excursion showed 91 joined the trip, police said.

The accident occurred at 9:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) Saturday, the eve of the Chinese Valentine Day festival when moon-gazing is a traditional part of the celebrations.

About 200 rescuers, including divers, searched the picturesque Sun Moon Lake here in one of Taiwan's most popular tourist districts for survivors through Saturday night and Sunday, police said.

Police in Nantou, 230 kilometres southwest of Taipei said they arrested yacht owner Hsu Ching-Hsin for alleged unintentional manslaughter.

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"I must give you a most severe

warning," Mrs. Aquino said. "Do not test me."

She made the remarks in a taped radio and television broadcast to be aired Sunday night, the transcript of which was distributed earlier to reporters.

"You had failed to cow the leader of this country during your last rampage. You shall fail again. I will not hesitate to use all the powers in my hands as the president of the republic to crush these traitors," Mrs. Aquino said.

Mrs. Aquino has survived six coup attempts during her four-year tenure.

## Solidarity marks anniversary

WARSAW (AP) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki led a tribute to Solidarity's 10th anniversary and spoke nostalgically of the days when the movement united workers and intellectuals.

"Then, 10 years ago, the alliance between workers and intellectuals was so strong... These values cannot be wasted," said Mazowiecki, marking the first day of his second year as the East Bloc's first non-Communist prime minister.

Battles have raged in 27 black townships since Aug. 13, fought mainly between migrant workers loyal to Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party and local residents who support Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

An ANC spokeswoman said senior official Walter Sisulu would join traditional tribal leaders in a tour of the worst-hit townships to call for a truce.

On Friday, the government declared the townships around Johannesburg "unrest areas," giving police widespread powers to suppress violence. It also called in more soldiers and police to control the chaos.

The leaders of the two camps have observed Solidarity's 10th anniversary separately. The events began on Aug. 15 in Gdansk, where Walesa led a

commemoration of the shipyard strike that spawned the movement.

Walesa did not attend Saturday's forum at Warsaw University but sent a warmly received letter that began, "thank you for those 10 years."

"We won because we were united... but today, there is no need to hide... that we don't agree on everything," Walesa said.

Mazowiecki is expected to go to Gdansk on Aug. 30-31 to meet with shipyard workers and join Walesa in celebrating the accords Solidarity signed with the then-Communist authorities to create the first free trade union in the Soviet bloc.

It was during those negotiations that Mazowiecki, then a Catholic journalist, brought a letter to Walesa expressing the support of intellectuals in Warsaw and Krakow for the workers' movement being born on the Baltic coast.

The United Front formed by

the two forces, joined by Poland's farmers, is given credit for Solidarity's ability to survive partial law and eight years underground before toppling the Communists last year.

Bronislaw Geremek, a historian who joined Mazowiecki in early support for Solidarity, remembered meeting a "young and tired" Walesa during the 1980 strike. He received an intellectual's letter and then said, "but can you help us?"

"The fact that striking workers accepted this alliance with farmers and intellectuals began from the simplest things — apples brought by farmers, the presence of intellectuals on both sides of the shipyard fence," recalled Geremek, head of the Solidarity-based parliament caucus.

"Between Solidarity and the government... there should be an arrangement built on the experience of the last 10 years. This is not a nostalgic message, this is a political necessity," Geremek said.

KALAMAZOO, Michigan — Broad jump, tightrope and soccer were among the events in the competition at Kalamazoo College, but the athletics were more interested in food than victory.

And fans at the "fourth annual rat olympics" were careful not to give a big hand to a rodent named Evita, who has been known to bite the hand feeds her.

About 25 psychology students trained the 14-participating rats in lieu of writing a term paper.

Psychology Professor Lyn Raible came up with the idea for the games in 1987 to enliven her summer course for students. But there was another motive. "Most of my students will go on to do research and I wanted them to think of rats as more than laboratory animals on which to experiment," Ms. Raible said.

"They see the trucks rumbling into town at 6 a.m. with goods from West Germany, while goods made in this country are sold," he said. "They see mice climbing, and they feel like their job training was worthless."

In the small city of Alsfeld, on the eastern edge of the Thuringian Forest, a former member of the disbanded Communist secret police pondered his future.

He has a new job but things aren't going well.

"People hoot at me behind my back," he said. "It's really very difficult."

"I was never involved in any heavy intelligence, jet checking passports and that kind of thing, but I'm ashamed of the corrupt government we supported," said the former agent, who spoke on condition his name not be used.

Then, seeming to speak for many East Germans, he said: "Sure, mistakes were made during the Communist period, but should four decades of our past really be flushed down the sewer?"

## Floods kill 50 in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Floods in the western state of Gujarat and on an island off the east coast killed at least 50 people this week, officials and news reports said.

Heavy rains in Gujarat caused five rivers to burst their banks and maroon scores of villages, United News of India reported.

At least 48 people drowned in the flooding, the news agency said.

In the Eastern city of Bhujavalswar, officials said at least two people were drowned on an island off the coast after heavy rains caused floods.

At least 140 people have died in India this year in floods caused by the annual summer monsoons.

Science and Mission Planning Manager Tommy Thompson said engineers and scientists felt "a little strung out" after the spacecraft malfunctioned and lost contact with Earth twice: first for 14 hours starting Aug. 16, then for 17 hair-raising hours beginning last Tuesday.

Consequently, NASA expresses eagerness for the shuttle's success.

"Everyone is very anxious for our mission to go very well," said Gene Urban, deputy mission scientist for Astro. "We're really a little nervous, I'd say, about having everything work right."

Scientists' main concern with Astro is the instrument pointing system for the three ultraviolet telescopes. The pointing system has been used only once before, for solar observations in 1985, and numerous problems were encountered.

Columbia originally was scheduled to lift off with Astro in March 1986. One of the targets was to have been Halley's Comet. That mission and all others were put on hold after Challenger exploded in February 1986.

This year, after a revamping of Astro's observation plans, launch was set for May 30, but hydrogen escaped from Columbia during fueling and the flight was called off.

Atlantis took Columbia's place at the pad but also was found to have a hydrogen leak, and its classified military mission was delayed from July to November.

Atlantis was rolled back to the hangar two and a half weeks ago, and a newly repaired Columbia reclaimed the pad.

"Yeah, it's frustrating," Hoffman said, noting all the delays. "One of the things that you absolutely need in this business is

Leipzig. "But now it's too late to turn back."

Heinz Weisse, 74, and his 70-year-old wife, Gertrud, loading bales of hay onto a cart outside Weimar, said they wouldn't have minded seeing East Germany continue as a democracy.

"We're happy about unity, but it was not a necessary development," said Weisse, a retired bairdresser. "There's a good side and bad side to everything."

He said he and his wife had a relatively good life under communism, as pensioners, had been allowed to travel outside the country.

"We had our little house here, and we were born here, so we always came back," Weisse said.

Most East Germans seem to see unification as their only salvation, but have come to realize it will not be an overnight cure for such problems as the high unemployment brought on by the July 1 economic union.

"We had our celebrations last year when the Berlin Wall came down," said Gisela Oswald, a 63-year-old retired opera singer in Weimar, an East German Cultural centre.

For example, West Germany's

legal system will be extended to the East, bringing in an entirely new code of laws.

"My office is going to have to learn, learn, learn," Fernau said.

Many East Germans fear the West will make all the decisions about their future.

A recent poll by the West German magazine Stern indicated 88 per cent of East Germans support unification, but 70 per cent were disappointed by how it has been managed. The process has been largely orchestrated by Helmut Kohl, West Germany's chancellor.

With the two Germans united, East Germans will find themselves in stiff competition with West Germans for jobs and business opportunities. They worry about coping.

"Prostitution will come with the joblessness because people need money," said Peter Fernau, chief of detectives in Bitterfeld, an industrial city. "We're also worried about heroin and the possible appearance of criminal gangs. There will be totally new dimensions to crime."

Several aspects of life will change after unification.

"But we also have many good qualities. We tend to be very tight-knit and helpful to each other, and that's something we don't want to lose."

*Jet in field*